INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

1. Alignment Com□eten□e
2. Context Com□eten□e
3. Content Com□eten□e
4. Language Com□eten□e
5. Introdu□tion Com□eten□e
6. Stru□ture □□resentation Com□eten□e
7. Con□lusion Com□eten□e

Overall Ma□ro Comments / feedba□k / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All t□e Best

Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. While India has taken a number of steps in order to substantially improve its ranking in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' Index, it needs to take further action in this regard. Elaborate. Also analyse the utility of these rankings vis-a-vis India's objective of facilitating a sound entrepreneurial environment.

The "Ease of Doing Business" rankings of the World Bank has ranked India at 130/189 Countries (2017) from 131/189 in 2016. These ranking include as indicators — access to credit, ease of getting power, resolving insolvency, enforcing contracts, inter alia.

* The "distance-from-frontier" score shows how far a country has performed, compared to the best performer on that indicator.

* India has taken multiple steps in this regard — to improve ranking:

(a) Judicial reforms: India ranks at 136/189 for "resolving insolvency" and thus

(i) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 seeks to expedite insolvency faster.

(ii) Commercial Courts, Benches in High Courts

(b) "Power for all" and "Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Jyoti Yojana" (DDUGJY) are meant to give easier access to 24 x 7 power

(c) Jan Dhan Yojana, MUDRA scheme and Stand-up India schemes to facilitate access to credit

(d) Single-window clearance and digitisation of tax

Collection — like GST Network and Saksham (Customs, excise).

(e) Legal reforms like Goods and Services Taxes Act; Arbitration Act (Amendments) and doing away with retrospective taxation to enhance attractiveness

(f) liberalisation of FDI policy

★ However some concerns on the Index's effectiveness are raised (a) It includes only Delhi and Mumbai — whereas ignores Telangana, Gujarat, Bangalore so underestimates our potential

(b) Post — index reforms

→ Therefore DIPP has come up with its own Index for ranking our States (Andhra Pradesh tops) called the "Business Reform Action Plan to infuse competitive federalism among States and have accurate representation of domestic economic reforms!

2. In wake of the agrarian crisis that the country is witnessing, discuss the need for adopting an income-centric approach in preference to a production-centric one as the basis of agricultural policy. In this context, also highlight the steps that should be taken to achieve the goal of doubling the income of farmers by 2021-22 and the challenges that exist.

The Agriculture Sector Contributes around 17% to India's GDP, while employing nearly 69% of our labourforce. Why this anomaly?

↳ NSSO data reveals that over 90% of farmers earn less than 20,000/- per month. Therefore, there is a need to focus on improving farmer incomes by focusing on

- Productivity
- Remunerative Prices
- Relief (in case of crop failure, prices, adverse weather)

↳ The shift from a production to income - centric model suggests that the focus on better outcomes so that farmers are able to use their limit resources better and improve efficiency..

↳ The NITI Aayog in its 3 year plan has highlighted how "Doubling Farmer" Income by 2022 can be achieved:

(a) Productivity Improve access to quality seeds, inputs, fertilisers and also expand organic farming (PM Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana). Drip-irrigation can improve water use efficiency by 20%.

(b) Remunerative Prices Reforming the APMC system and introducing the National Agriculture Market (NAM) can improve farm-gate prices. Even in the New Reforms

Index, the focus on APMC reform is crucial

(c) Relief the loss due to fall in prices and adverse weather creates famine - like fluctuations. the PM Fasal Bima Yojana is to be implemented to cover all risks

* What are the challenges

① Costs we need over 1 lac crore investment by the State (from 60,000 crores now) where will the money come from?

② Land-leasing policy is crucial to allow tenants to cultivate lands and reduce fragmentation

③ Access to technology and extension services is poor (need schemes like E-chaupal of ITC)

* Conclusion As Ashok Dalwai's report said, we need to focus on an integrated, holistic rural reform so that agriculture becomes remunerative. We have to push further so that we can actually double farmer incomes.

3. It is argued that India's fiscal centre of gravity has rapidly shifted from the Centre to the States. Analyse the statement in context of the debate on fiscal discipline. Also, enumerate the key recommendations of the N.K. Singh panel on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.

The increasing focus on "Cooperative" and "Competitive" federalism, whereby the States of India have an equal role in the development of India, necessitates that States to manage their finances with discipline and prudence.

— The Fiscal Responsibility and Budgement Management Act, 2003 was legislated to regulate and manage sovereign finances — to prevent overshoot of spending when the Economy was in a "Boom".

— While the Centre has managed to gradually reduce its fiscal deficit to 3.2% (2017), States continue to have high

fiscal deficits and revenue deficits because of:

(a) UDAY – DISCOM Yojana ~~whereby~~ which highlights the deficiencies of State Power Companies

(b) Droughts leading to poor agricultural output

(c) fall in FDI in states such as Tamil Nadu

– Therefore, it is imperative to improve the fiscal position of States so that their GSDP improves and balance-sheets are sustainable. Else, it may hurt central finances too.

– States are the economic hubs of India → industries, resources and employment

– In this context, the N.K. Singh Committee was setup to review the FRBM Act –

* whether we need to move away from fixed fiscal deficit and revenue deficit targets?

The Committee recommended as follows:

↳ Reduce fiscal deficit to 2.5% by 2022-23 and revenue deficit to 0.8% by 2022-3 (from 2% now)

↳ Debt to GDP ratio be reduced to 60% (40% Centre and 20% for States) from 68% now

↳ Escape Clause of 0.5% in case of wars, calamities etc.

* therefore, this seeks to streamline Centre's and States' resources, by setting up a Financial Council to monitor, advise.

* Conclusion States are the dynamos of economic growth and thus, in the spirit of federalism, steps are needed to reinforate their balancesheets and make them power-houses of growth!

4. Strategic sale of state-run firms is a prudent step to deal with the challenges being faced by the public sector enterprises in India. Comment. Also enumerate other measures that can be taken in light of NITI Aayog's suggestions in this regard.

The Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) were set up post-1947 for the "Commanding heights" of the economy.

- However, over the years they have been expensive, inefficient and burdened the economy.
  - ↳ Over-staffed
  - ↳ Lack of competitiveness and product-innovation
  - ↳ Cost over-runs and poor performance outcomes

- Recently, the NITI Aayog has suggested some reforms:
  (a) Closure of loss-making

entities

(b) Hindustan Photofilms, Hindustan fertilizers etc. have remained unproductive

(c) Disinvestment and strategic sales of some PSUs with benefits for Government

• the recent proposal for disinvestment of Air India is a case in point too

↳ the CAG has pointed out that faulty acquisition of aircrafts has been the reason for its economic failure, combined with VIP flying-for-free

↳ It has a debt of over 50,000 crore rupees and its market share is fragile 13%.

• The reason behind the need to close down / divest the government share is that why should the tax payer pay for malfunctioning of PSUs?

• If they are not profitable, and no more serve the public interest (post - 1991), the government is right in taking steps in this regard.

5. Shell companies in India are neither legally defined nor properly understood. Analyse in the light of recent developments, prevalent understanding and steps required to effectively deal with shell companies.

"Shell Companies" are those that merely exist on paper but carry on no economic transactions. they are used for economic manoeuvres and to park illegal money.

↳ the recent government crackdown on shell companies has shown that over 60,000 of them do not file Income Tax returns.

↳ these firms are used for money-laundering purposes, tax evasion and round-tripping of money. Often, they are only on paper and have no business, trading.

↳ Some even route the illegal money from abroad

and convert them into white money.

↳ the reasons for their proliferation include:

(a) Poor regulatory oversight

(b) Poor tax enforcement

(c) Poor enforcement of other laws like Benami Prohibition Act, Prevention of Money-Laundering Act etc.

↳ What steps required?

① Compulsory de-registration of such companies by the Registrar of Companies

② Stricter enforcement of the Benami Transaction Act, 2016 (new law) which allows for confiscation of property.

① the new project "Insight" by the Income Tax Department is

crucial to check and monitor transactions (suspicions) online on social media

(4) Reduce Corporate tax rates (OECD) so that firms are not hesitant to pay taxes → tax compliance will go up

(5) Digitisation of economy will improve our tax - GDP ratio by 0-7%.

(6) Recent changes to DTAA with Singapore, Mauritius, Cyprus need to be enforced.

↳ However, care should be taken not to exercise discretionary powers to harm legitimate economic firms.

↳ Therefore, the steps to weed out shell companies will clean up our economy and boost GDP by 1-1.5%; our ease of business shall improve, so will our financial attractiveness!

6. If a larger population in India is to be involved in the economy in a big way, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are key. Elaborate. Also discuss the challenges faced by the SME sector in India and give an account of the measures taken by the government to deal with these.

The MSME sector

Contributes

- 48% of exports
- 8% GDP
- 45% employment

• Yet the impact on the GDP remains small as the units are small and do not have adequate access to capital, resources to expand the scale of production and marketing.

• India has a burgeoning young population in the working age group of 15-

64 years. This "demographic dividend" has to be harnessed by 2040 (India Skill Report)

- Further, India needs over 100 million skilled persons by 2022 in the 24 high priority sectors.
- Thus, to shift the excessive labour force from agriculture (62%) to the manufacturing sector, we need to ensure skilling, education and employment, for which MSMEs are vital.
- <u>The challenges of MSEs are</u>

↳ lack of access to capital, resources, technology

↳ loans (over 90% MSEs don't have access to formal loans)

↳ burden of labour laws

* the steps taken by the government include

(a) PM MUDRA Yojana : offering loans upto 5 lacs for entrepreneurs

(b) Start-Up India, Stand up India (SC/ST, women → 50% of loans) and SC/ST hub

(c) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana and PM Yuva Yojana to train, skilled the youth

(d) Atal Incubation Centres where startups can use the facilities.

(e) Zero-effect zero-defect to improve quality of produce and also reduce pollution

* therefore, we need to give further impetus to MSEs so that we can increase jobs and also achieve 10% GDP growth.

7. What are the reasons for the growing informalization of industrial labour in India? Discuss the issues associated with the phenomenon and reforms required to deal with them.

Currently, over 90% of our labour force is employed in the unorganised sector. This data reveals the skewed nature of our economic growth — for it has not been very inclusive.

↳ What are the reasons for growing informalization?

(a) Labour laws At the moment, the restrictions on number of employees, "fire-hire" restrictions and issues on closure of loss-making firms has led to firms preferring to remain small and informal.

(b) Lack of incentives for MSMEs they employ 45% of our workforce yet contribute only 8% to our GDP. How do they scale up?

(c) Lack of sufficient social security for unorganised, informal sector workers.

(d) Acute poverty in India — over 40% lives below the poverty line — so they have no skills or education to enter the formal sector

* The issues listed above are indicative of the anamolous growth model of India. Further,

(a) Women in informal sector lack maternity benefits

(b) No social security — insurance, pension guarantee

(c) No access to formal credit

(d) Poor economic outcomes

(e) Poor intra-generational equity → Children of these

workers suffer too.

☆ What reforms can be done

① Flexible labour laws: The Unorganised Sector Act, 2007 can be overhauled to include social security for informal workers, while also allowing firms to remain competitive by following suitable employment practices.

② Tax base has to be widened by calculating informal sector incomes. Digital tools can be used.

③ Skilling - over 100 million are needed by 2022 - the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Apprenticeship Scheme are crucial

④ Labour code reforms

Thus we need to balance the interests of workers and employers so that we achieve optimal outcomes and move to formalisation of economy.

8. A number of far-reaching developments have taken place in the local and global energy space which have to be reflected in our own energy policy framework. Discuss.

Global energy outlook has been changing rapidly. While oil prices per barrel had fallen, renewables too became cheaper and cheaper.

→ The Global Energy Architecture Report, however, ranks India low → 97th rank.

* Have we been unable to benefit from the changing energy landscape?

* The Government's Energy Policy enlists some of the objectives to be achieved in light of the changing global energy space :—

(a) 175 GW of renewables target of which 100 GW (solar), 60 GW of wind and rest from biomass and small hydro power

(b) Improve power generation capacity of our power plants

(c) Nuclear power can be expanded

(d) Regulator for every sector

* These suggestions, however, do raise some concerns viz — a - viz the global scenario

(a) the world is moving away from coal and fossil fuels — to investing in dirty coal can breach our Paris Pact obligation

(b) Shale gas is rising globally and India should focus more on it - rather than nuclear power → the recent Hydro —

Carbon exploration policy is welcome

(c) Solar and wind capacity has to improve

* therefore, as India is the third largest oil consumer, soon to become second largest, we should create a buyer's group (like seller's OPEC now) to have better bargaining power

* As we have development needs, coal cannot be completely shut off, but incorporating SMART grids, cleaner coke can help mitigate environmental concerns.

* thus, if we follow a balanced approach, we can seek to achieve our goal of 10% reduction in oil imports by 2022.

9. The Indian IT-BPM (Information Technology-Business Process Management) industry is a global powerhouse today and its impact on India and the world has been unprecedented. Comment. Also, mention the challenges being faced by India's IT-BPM sector.

The 1980s onwards, India witnessed the boom of the IT industry. Further, post-1991, the IT-BPM industry has grown to nearly 60% share of our GDP (as the services sector.

↳ IT employs skilled persons and pays them salaries that were hitherto unimagined.

↳ The technological revolution has led to spin-offs in other sectors like banking, finance FDI.

↳ The Indian IT majors employs millions of persons not only domestically, but also worldwide — Infosys, TCS

have a global presence and are enlisted on NASDAQ, London Stock Exchange etc.

↳ the Indian diaspora in the IT sector ~~has~~ plays a vital role in selling India's "soft-power", alongside economic power.

↳ the winds of globalisation has made India an exporter of software, hardware components at globally competitive prices.

★ Yet, all is not as well as it may seem. Some of the Challenges include:

① Protectionism with the US looking inward — (Nearly 70% of approved H1B applications were from India) — Indian majors in US are looking at

greater computerization and securitry locally.

(2) Robotics and Automation can make nearly 50% of IT jobs irrelevant in 2-4 years

(3) Economic slowdown globally will lead to 1.75 - 2 lac job losses in the next few years in this sector

(4) Rising costs: with Mexico, Vietnam, emerging as strong competitors for IT, Indian labour costs have shot up.

WAY FORWARD India needs to re-skill and re-orient its IT sector to remain competitive. Moving to high-value jobs by incorporating Artificial Intelligence and cloud-technology can be the solution. If we have to grow at 10%, our IT sector has needs to grow by leaps and bounds!

10. An effective multi-modal logistics and transport sector will make the Indian economy more competitive. Analyse.

One of the weakest links in our economic growth is our pitiable state of logistics.

Nearly 4% of our GDP is lost because of our logistics inefficiency.

WHAT IS PLAGUING US?

(a) Poor physical infrastructure:
While National Highways are only 4% of travel networks, they ferry over half the goods and people. We need 2 lac kilometres of roads to reduce the stress.

(b) Skewed distribution:
While we have the fourth largest railways, it covers about 4% of freight movement. Similarly our internal waters carry less

than 2% of our goods and people, Roads are overburdened.

(c) High costs: Inter-State taxes and customs barriers add to transport costs.

(d) Lack of integrated multi-modal logistics policy

* What can be done to reform this?

(1) Logistics Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) seeks to monitor, evaluate performance to roads, roadways.

(2) Internal Waterways Policy
↳ Enlisting of National Waterways by linking it to nearby rail stations and Highways to ensure last-mile connectivity.

(3) Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor from Ludhiana

to Kolkata can be interlinked to the Jal-Marg Vikas Project on National Waterway - 1 (Ganga - Haldia).

(4) Reduce time on highways with technology such as FASTAG and AHTS.

(5) Lagaruela (Port-led growth) project should connect to other modes like roads, railways for seamless movement.

WAY FORWARD Only an integrated, comprehensive, multi-modal transport network can reduce our costs and enhance our ease of business. New technology like High-Speed Rail and Hyperloop can be integrated with existing networks for faster movement of goods and persons!

11. Climate change threatens sustainable development, impairs socio-economic development and reinforces cycles of poverty across the globe. In this context, discuss the utility of climate risk insurance as an instrument within a comprehensive climate risk management system.

[illegible]

Climate change refers to the anthropogenic causes - induced changes to the atmosphere.

* Currently, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has stated that 2016 was the "Hottest year" with 1.2°C rise in global temperature.

* M.S. Swaminathan, the ~~[illegible]~~ renowned scientist has argued that with every (1.1) increase in temperature, yield will fall by 300-400 kgs per hectare.

↳ As yield falls, farmers lose money and are driven to suicide. This hurts our

agrarian economy and harms our food security too.

* The family is left-behind with no bread-earner and are forced into a debt-trap of viciousness. The rural crisis because of drought and floods has been a vital reason for farmer suicides.

* Thus, education and health suffers and the poverty-cycle worsens.

* HOW DO WE ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING?

→ Insurance against pest-attacks, yield losses and fall in prices because of global and domestic reasons has been envisioned under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana. At very

low rates of premium (such as Rs. 2 for Rabi crops), it uses technology to assess the crops loss and give timely insurance relief to farmers.

→ Similarly, the Plantation Insurance Scheme by Commerce Ministry to seek to protect tobacco, tea, coffee, rubber planters against losses because of weather, pest-attacks.

Therefore, there is a need to "climate proof" our development by managing risks and improving the lives of people whose lives are impacted. Climate refugees will continue to grow if we do not address local-level problems of poverty and vulnerability.

Thus, a cohesive, global response is the need of the hour!

12. Why are women particularly vulnerable to the impact of natural disasters? Also analyse, with adequate examples, how women can play a more effective role in disaster risk management cycle.

Women comprise nearly 51% of the world's population, yet are the worst affected by natural disasters.

The reasons are multifold:

→ Feminization of agriculture whereby, over 72% of (NSSO) agriculture ~~also~~ labour force is women. So when crops fail, due to floods or drought, the women and children suffer

→ Traditional roles of women as care-givers — when disaster strike, they need to ensure the safety of others before their own.

→ Lack of access to economic resources, including land - So when faced with crisis, they are further impoverished and are at the mercy of others

→ Pregnant women, elderly women, and children face physical difficulties in running and escaping from disasters.

★ WHAT ROLE CAN THEY PLAY

Community participation is the central focus of disaster prevention and mitigation.

↳ Women are more alert, vigilant and comprehend the risks better and thus, can be made active participants.

↳ they need to be trained, given mock drills and can help as co rescuers.

→ The UNGA resolution on Afghanistan highlights the role of women in conflict situations. Similarly, they can play a vital role in disaster - management

→ Prevention

→ Mitigation

↓

Rescue and rehabilitation

→ Thus, the role of women is indispensable for success of the Sendai Framework, as well as our National Disaster Plan - Keep our world safer and peaceful!

13. In view of the seriousness of heat waves and its consequences, greater attention is required for dealing with it as a natural disaster. Analyse in the context of recent developments and the actions taken by relevant government bodies.

"Heat waves" kill hundreds of persons every year. India faces a strong summer every year.

- Recently, changes were made to the concept of heatwaves
  - 30°C for hills and 40°C for plains for two or more consecutive days
  - 45°C (+) is regarded as "severe heat wave"
- therefore, we need to set up adequate shelters, give access to water and food for persons stranded

On the roads

- Seasonal shelters can be set up (like for winters in Delhi)
- MGNREGA work can be given where drought is declared due to lack of rains
- Telangana government has taken steps to alleviate the suffering of those during heatwaves.
- Compensation for stroke-related deaths is essential too, since usually street-vendors and rickshaw-pullers are worst affected.

14. While genome editing offers immense potential benefits in the area of healthcare, there are a lot of apprehensions regarding its use. Discuss.

The recent case of 3-parent baby in Mexico has brought to light some concerns about genome editing.

* Genome-editing refers to the process where a particular genome of a gene is modified or altered to remove any defects that may pass on to the off-spring.

* Some of the benefits of this process are:

(1) Reduction in hereditary diseases, congenital defects (such as Mito chondrial diseases)

(2) Healthy off-spring.

→ However, some challenges remain:

(a) the pluripotent stem cells are used and thus, scientists argue that making genetic changes alters the course of nature — this is against the laws of diversity of nature

(b) Excessive costs involved

(c) "Designer babies" whereby people prefer "normal" babies over "abnormal" ones — this further inhibits scientific innovations and disease-treating technology to find a cure

(d) Effect on other sectors too — that increasing unregulated technology can prove harmful to humankind

PTO

* Thus, in conclusion, it may be argued that we need to stay careful of such ~~large scale~~ technology and use it only when the life of mother and child would be at risk because of some untreated diseases.

15. Discuss various ways in which supercomputers have benefitted mankind over the years. Also enumerate the objectives of the National Supercomputing Mission and the mechanism for its implementation.

[illegible]

China recently, for the 7th time in a row, won the award of having the fastest super computer (TIANYEN) in the world.

Supercomputers have played a vital role:

(a) Technological innovations such as fast-computing

(b) Study mathematic models for disaster prevention and climate forecasting

(c) Economic businesses can use it for data analytics

(d) healthcare - used for evidence-based healthcare

(e) It Majors can use it for software programmes.

↳ India currently hosts "PARAM - ISHAN" (IIT - Guwahati and CDAC) which is the fastest supercomputer outside Bangalore.

↳ the Supercomputing Mission seeks to increase the speed (terabytes) and storage capacity.

↳ It seeks to enhance per second computing missions for enhanced output

→ this can revolutionise India as a "knowledge" economy.

16. Widely seen as a disruption for the traditional banking and financial institutions, cryptocurrencies have gained significant traction lately, at the same time creating a regulatory nightmare for regulators across the globe. Discuss.

Crypto currencies are those which are unregulated by any authority and are driven by market forces, with no formal systems or hard currency.

* The Bitcoin is one such — the benefits its offers are:

(a) Public Ledger: the Blockchain technology is open to all users and makes it transparent

(b) Immutability — The transaction once done cannot be altered.

(c) Secrecy

(d) Lack of regulation so taxes need not be paid

↳ From 700 USD, Bitcoins are now worth 2700 USD and worldwide over billions of dollars.

↳ Since there is a fixed upper limit, the market online controls demand and supply.

↳ Japan has recently legally recognised Bitcoins as currency because the unregulated nature was a nightmare.

★ Should India do too?

— the RBI has warned against its legalisation saying that anyone transacting, buying bitcoins does so at her own risk

P.T.O

→ Some economists argue that legalising it would be better because:

(a) the incomes would be taxation

(b) Can be brought under RBI, SEBI

(c) Regulate terror financing, money-laundering through crypto currency.

(d) regulate it as formal sector

☆ Therefore India needs to study and examine it before taking any hasty decision. Regularization will be at its own cost, so checks and balances are essential.

17. An internationally-binding agreement to strengthen the Outer Space Treaty of 196□ is both desirable and increasingly a necessity. Analyse in view of the traditional and emerging challenges in this arena.

The Outer Space Treaty, 1961 was set up in the wake of the Cold-war, after Russia launched the "Sputnik".

↳ The reasons for its desirability, necessity are:

(a) Prevent Colonisation of space, celestial Objects like moon

(b) Prevent nuclearisation and weaponisation of space

(c) Use space, moon for peaceful purposes for benefit of human-kind

(d) fix liability of countries for violation

(e) Prevent space-wars.

* However, some challenges are emerging

(1) "Race - to - Space" China has recently sent its first manned-mission (Shinzou 11) to space and there is a fear that countries will compete once again

(2) Nuclear weapons Small satellites should be used for only civilian uses like disaster prevention and not to deliver nuclear weapons

(3) Space Tourism Virgin Galactic has offered tickets to the moon (one-way) - this is a challenge

(4) Commercial space technology As private sector like Indus (India) and Tesla (US) send satellites to space, who will fix liability?

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Under the Liability Convention, the Country is responsible for even private mission with regard to space debris etc.

* Thus, we need to evolve a global response and Amend the treaty accordingly.

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18. Even after nearly 60 years in existence, AFSPA remains at the centre of debates with respect to countering violent insurgencies, role of the states and local communities. Discuss.

The AFSPA was enacted to give the armed forces and paramilitary forces the permission to kill, search, arrest with legal immunity, anyone suspected of committing a crime, in "disturbed areas".

• While giving a free hand to security forces was essential to quell the insurgency (like Jammu and Kashmir or Nagaland), there have been excesses too.

• The Supreme Court has repeatedly argued that the fundamental rights of the

citizens of India supercede the legal impunity to the forces

- The Government has argued that filing FIRs and taking action against security forces will ~~affex~~ affect their morale.

- However, the local people are often victims of this arbitrary exercise of force, sometimes innocent civilians are shot-at-sight. In Jammu-Kashmir alone, over ~~200~~ 200 civilians have been killed since 2009.

- The Hegde Commission has argued that oftentimes there are no reasonable grounds for the killings and these "military operations" have been "murders".

- In the recent Manipur

case too, the victims' families are seeking legal accountability of the officers for extra-judicial killings.

- The only solution to the issue is to have community participation in fostering harmony and peace in these troubled areas. De-radicalization education of youths and reducing poverty should be undertaken.

- The civilian administration should focus on creating an amicable atmosphere for peace, progress.

19. Analyse the challenges and opportunities inherent in the push for indigenisation of defence production in India. Also, identify the measures through which indigenous manufacturing of defence equipments is being encouraged by the Government.

India is one of the largest importers of weapons, importing over 90% of our needs.

"Make in India" would be complementary to indigenisation of defence production. The recent Defence Budget too has stressed on the same.

What have been the challenges so far?

(a) Lack of domestic capacity

India has relied on Russia for the Brahmos, Sukhoi aircraft missiles and Israel for the Barak-8 etc.

* We did not Indian Industry with technology and money,

(b) Corruption in importing
The Bofors scam and recent Augusta westland deals suggest that bureaucratic – politician nexus has impaired defence procurement

(c) lack of sufficient incentives by government

Yet, the opportunities are immense:

(a) India has the 3rd largest ~~armed forces in the world~~ forces in the world – so its requirements are immense

(b) TRIAD comprising Air/Navy/Army will open up multiple platforms for investment

★ What measures taken

(1) Defence Procurement Policy, 2016 focuses on "Buy", "Make", "Buy and make (India)" and prioritises procurement internally

(2) Defence SEZ in Nagpur with domestic investors like Reliance and also foreign investors like Rafale.

(3) Army Design Bureau to "Make in India"

(4) Joining Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) which will allow use access to technology and help our space programme too.

(5) Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) with US will allow tech transfer — civilian and dual-use technology

★ Therefore, we must look at indigenisation!

20. India's ability to puruse a clear-cut strategic vision depends on its ability to improve institutional cooperation and coordination between the armed forces and civilian bureaucracy. Discuss.

The Indian military — civilian relationship was designed after 1947 to ensure a smooth relationship between the two, while also ensuring checks and balances.

* However, over the years, this has stymied the military in various ways:

(a) The bureaucrat appointed as the Defence Secretary lacks understanding of the needs and requirements of each of the 3 forces

(b) No single defence advisor so each of the Service Chiefs gives advice to the Rakshe Mantri independent of the other

(c) Chiefs of 3 forces have no control over budgetary allocations and defence procurement — they are merely advisory

* therefore, there have been recommendations for
↳ a chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who will act as a permanent Chairperson of the Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) who shall be the single-point advisor to the Defence Minister.
↳ The Kargil Review Committee (2000), followed by the Expert Group of Ministers recommend this. The latter said that the CDS should be a 5-star General rank Officer
↳ the Naresh Chandra Committee recommended a 4-star

Ranked CDS.

→ Recently, Lt. Gen Shekatkar Committee has lamented the urgency of having a CDS to ensure smooth cooperation, alongwith greater budgetary allocation of 2.5% for the defence.

☆ We need to reform our civilian – military relations as we are fighting a "two and a half war" (Western neighbour plus northern plus internal naxal insurgency).

☆ Thus, a CDS with adequate powers and functions is the need of the hour.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1021)

Name of Candidate	RANGASHREE T.K.		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	13309
Center	ONLINE	Date	17/7/17

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
10	12.5	
11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Alignment Competence**
2. **Context Competence**
3. **Content Competence**
4. **Language Competence**
5. **Introduction Competence**
6. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
7. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Answer all the questions in NOT MORE THAN 200 WORDS each. Content of the answers is more important than its length. All questions carry equal marks.

12.5X20=250

1. Identify the key objectives of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. Also highlight the challenges in its implementation.

- The POSCO Act, 2012 seeks to protect children from the trauma and horrors of sexual exploitation.
- Its Objectives include:
  (a) Safeguard interests of the child
  (b) ensure a safe and dignified childhood
  (c) Bring the perpetrators to justice
  (d) ensure compulsory registering of offences against children
  (e) reduce sexual crimes against children
- because very often the accused is known to the child-victim.
- Children are unable to express what has happened to them and stay silent until someone asks them.

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- The accused is often a family-friend or family-member or a driver/ ~~or~~ helper known to the child. Thus, it becomes all the more challenging.
- Some of the challenges are:
(a) Creating awareness among the children, schools and parents on "good versus bad touch"
(b) Gender-neutrality is vital because even boys are exploited
(c) we do not have a ~~national~~ level cell against this yet. Recently, the National Campaign against Online Child Sexual Abuse was started and the Women-Child Ministry (MWCD) is setting up a cell at its secretariat for this purpose.
(d) Online child-pornography

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is unregulated.

(e) How do we get the child to come forward and identify the perpetrator?

Intimidation and fear grips the hearts of young children. Since the elder is always in a higher power position than the child, he can get away.

(f) How do we get families to come forward?

The recently setup E-POSCO Box in the NCPCR (MWCD) is an online, speedy way to register your complaint ensuring your privacy.

- We need to sensitize families, children, schools, the police and even the policies because children are involved and strict implementation of POSCO is key to a happy, safe childhood.

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2. Discuss how the design of MGNREGA program makes it more successful than other rural development programmes.

MNREGA is an improvement of the earlier National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)
Some of the factors that makes MNREGA better than other programs are:
(a) The right to work is established as a statutory right, unlike earlier when it was mentioned only across schemes and policies
(b) It is demand-driven
(c) Assured 100 days work for an adult member willing to do unskilled labour is a landmark shift because we have a situation of disguised unemployment in our agrarian society.
(d) Minimum intake of women is very notable because it empowers them with work and wages.
(e) In drought-struck districts, upto 150 days of work is given and thus, small farmers have

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Alternate employment.

- Most rural development schemes have focused on treating rural poor as beneficiaries, rather than as equal participants.
- MNREGA has opened the door to include them in the development process.
- MNREGA has a wage to material ratio of 60 : 40 and this is remarkable.
- MNREGA has been linked to other schemes such as PM Awas Yojana and Skill India so that there is convergence across schemes and to skill the workers.
- Some challenges still remain in implementation because critics argue that MNREGA is merely a "digging the hole" scheme and

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no durable assets have been created, plus problem of ghost beneficiaries.

Nonetheless, the assured work of 100/150 days is important for rural India, especially when we depend on the monsoon so much.

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3. Self-employment of the poor has been an important objective of the anti-poverty programmes and SHGs have played a significant role in this. Elucidate with examples. Also discuss the problems which plague the model of SHG micro-finance in India.

"Teach a man to fish, rather than giving him the money to buy fish"

This means that encouraging one to be self-sufficient and be employed is better than giving doles.

Since the days of PM Gram Swarozgar Yojana, focus has been on self-employment of the poor.

However, the poor by themselves cannot form necessary connections, have the capital and resources to generate livelihood. Thus, they form SHGs that pools their resources and gives the support.

Access to formal loans, capital has been possible because of SHGs where access to credit is more

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certain, repayment is higher because of strong pressure and collateral is minimum.

- Creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem and diversification to non-farm activities will help reduce poverty.
- Even in urban areas, access to credit through SHGs ensures a better standard of living.
- Women play a vital role in SHGs and thus, their empowerment is key to reducing poverty.
- NABARD has an SHG-linkage scheme and the SHG model has been successful in Andhra Pradesh [Sri Krishna Finance]
- Similarly, Bandhan (now Bank) used the SHG model in the East to improve the lives of the poor.

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Some of the issues are:

(a) Since we are an agrarian economy, any failure in the monsoon leads to inability to repay debt and thus, loans are defaulted.

(b) Many families still prefer to go to the local moneylender for easy loans.

(c) With the rise in NPAs, even NBFCs and smaller Rural Banks may find it difficult to lend to SHGs.

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4. Give an account of the issues that arise due to short tenure of civil servants in India. Critically discuss the move of setting up a Civil Services Board in order to address this problem.

- The SC in the TSR Subramanian Case in 2014 held that a minimum of 2 years should be given for a district posting.
- The SC held that the frequent transfers and shifts created a lot of instability in the smooth administration of the districts and also created fear in the minds of honest bureaucrats.
- In UP alone, each district sees a new District Magistrate every 5 months, on an average. Many see 3 new officers every year.
- This system of political appointees based on favouritism and the so-called "closeness" to the government is painful. Thus, it

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harms the administration and demotivates young officers.

Similarly, even at the secretary level, there has to be some assured tenure.

A pre-tenure transfer should happen only when the circumstances are so grave and upon a written recommendation. The officer should be given a chance to present her case.

The impression that one might be transferred to a less important posting for standing up for the law and doing honest work should change. Rather, transfers should not be seen as a punishment.

Thus, there is a need for a Civil Services Board:

↳ On the lines of the UPSC

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↳ the Board will ensure that Officers have security of tenure and are not unfairly harassed for doing their work

↳ All pre-term transfers should be looked through the Board, in writing

↳ Grievance redressal cell for Officers who feel they are unjustly treated

↳ Act as an ombudsman and uphold good professional practices

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5. India's health system is one of the most privatised in the world, poorly regulated and accessible only to those with income levels well above the average. Comment.

- Over half the ill-patients visit private hospitals rather than government hospitals on a daily basis. Why so?
- Some of the reasons are:

(a) The number of beds in hospitals and the number of hospitals itself are simply ~~inadequate~~ inadequate.

(b) The doctors and staff too are not enough. Where the numbers are there, the skills are lacking or they are unwilling to attend to patients.

(c) With a burgeoning population, the nature of diseases is changing and the rise in Non-Communicable diseases (NCD), speciality care etc. means the government hospitals are underequipped.

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(d) Although the cost of treatment is higher in private hospitals, people prefer them because they feel that the quality of treatment is better

(e) Out of pocket expenditure is one of the highest amongst BRICS countries.

(f) Routine inspections and visits to government hospitals too is futile because no action is taken.

(g) the Medical Council of India has under performed and grants medical college licenses to everyone so the quality of doctors, even in best places, is questionable.

(h) Under the Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana, a family is given 30,000 Rs. per year to choose between a private and a government hospital. Is this enough today?

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- the National Health Policy, 2017 outlines the need to raise the % of GDP on health to 2.5% in the short run and 5% long term (as per WHO)
- Some states like Tamilnadu provide free or less costly drugs, even for serious diseases. The opening of Jan Aushadhi stores to regulate drug costs is welcome.
- The AIIMS in various parts of India is welcome, but we need to see if it solves the problem.
- Recently, in Kerala, government hospital said "housefull" — can we deny public access to health?
- This is pitiable.

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6. Keeping in mind the importance of NGOs in India's development process it is imperative that adequate legal and regulatory mechanisms should be in place. Discuss in the context of recent developments.

- Recently, NGOs have been in the news on the grounds of undertaking activities prejudicial to the interests of India.
- NGOs have played a vital role globally in raising issues of concern and urging governments to act.
- Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Red Cross etc have brought Human Rights violations to the news and helped secure justice for victims.
- However, in India, we are facing the challenge in terms of where they get the money from, who sets their agenda and what activities do they indulge?
- The recent cancellation of licenses under the foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA) has shown that

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Some NGOs have ~~had~~ been unable to show the source of their funds and may have given a boost to some groups who have created law and order issues.

The importance of civil society cannot be overstated, They are vital partners for development because they engage the public and create public awareness.

However, one must exercise caution and differentiate the bad apples from the lot and only punish such NGOs indulging in nefarious activities that can threaten the development, peace and stability of India.

Legal action should be taken and their accounts frozen.

But, the honest, sincere

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NGOs who genuinely advocate a cause and uphold human rights and justice should not be penalised because it will stifle our freedom of speech.

Thus, our laws should be amended to include NGOs in RTI for more transparency and at the same time, we must make sure that we work alongside NGOs because they may have the knowledge and expertise in some areas where the government may fail.

A blanket ban or a blanket praise will not help us. And thus, regulatory changes are essential.

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7. While on one hand, there has been proliferation of use of digital technology, on the other hand, resulting digital dividends have not been forthcoming. Analyse.

The World Bank recently published a report where it said that there is immense digital divide in India.

As per the UN - ITU's Index on Inclusive Internet, India lags far behind even our South Asian neighbours.

The "digital haves" have benefited from access to information, resources and have bettered their position, while the "have nots" have been unable to do so.

One of the reasons is the access to a cell phone. Google's Sundar Pichai has said the we need to further reduce the cost of a cell phone, so that people can buy one. Further, access to internet

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is limited.

- With programs like Internet Saathi we can train and equip people to use the internet.
- There is a gender gap, more so in rural areas where the women are less likely to know and use digital tools.
- Language is a barrier too because we have many regional dialects and not all know Hindi or English or Tamil.
- The spread of Digital India for 24 x 4 mobile connectivity and inclusion is a gamechanger.
- The Bharatnet programme of on-demand internet to 1 lac gram panchayats can help bridge the rural divide.
- PM Digital Lakshakta Abhiyan

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Can play a vital role in spreading digital literacy among the rural masses. (PM DISHA)

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8. The public policy requirements of the 21st century demand a bureaucracy less generalist in nature. Analyse in the context of Indian civil services.

Post - 1991 liberalisation, the Indian economy and society have changed rapidly. New areas of finance, technology, law etc. have emerged and our administrations is going through tremendous change.

Earlier, the role of a bureaucrat was to sign files and play a government regulator. Today, she is expected to be a facilitator and enabler.

As our GDP grows at 7% and as we reach to be an Asian Giant, our governance too should keep pace.

For example, bodies like TRAI and CCI need officers well-versed in the areas and not just generalists. Knowledge of the law

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is key.

- Similarly, ministries too have new requirements, such as Information Technology (MEITY) where we need experts in cyber security, digital payments etc.

- While the nature of society changes the nature of crimes also changes and thus, we need police officers who understand cyber crimes, cross-border cyber espionage etc.

- Thus, we need officers who can contribute positively for each area of administration.

- While recruiting officers, UPSC can keep these demands in mind.

- The introduction of lateral entry too is a welcome move because we can bring in experts with knowledge of the domain.

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9. Explain how the National Digital Library (NDL) can bring a fundamental shift in the paradigm of education and research. Also highlight the challenges that need to be addressed to make NDL self-sustainable.

Access to good, quality books and education is lacking for many people in India.

Many schools and colleges do not have the money, are located far away from Delhi or Bangalore and thus, students do not have the best inputs at times.

Digitisation of knowledge is so important to bridge the gap and create a level-playing field for youngsters.

While IITs, IIMs, NLUs have the best research journals and books, many State Universities may not have it. Thus, the creation of NDL is necessary and was long due.

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- The McBride Commission of UNESCO has also suggested reforms in education.
- Thus, at the click of a button, one can get the best access to knowledge. Brain gain and demographic dividend can be reaped.
- While we complain that our Universities do not perform well internationally, access to knowledge and consequent research through NDL, MOOCs can be a game-changer.
- How do we create a self-sustainable model?

↳ Keeping mind that subscription to foreign content is costly, we can create a fund where companies can contribute through CSR, PPPs.

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↳ Request IITs / IIMs / NLUs to have open access portals for all students everywhere

↳ Charge a small user fee from colleges using the NDL

↳ Institute grants in the names of senior scholars and teachers to attract funds.

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10. Census 2011 observed that there has been a significant increase in urban homeless households in the period between 2001 and 2011. What are homeless households? Highlighting the challenges faced by them, discuss the causes for increase in such households. Suggest various measures to rehabilitate these households.

→ Homeless households refers to those who donot have access to a pucca house or have temporary shelters seasonally or live in uncertain circumstances, such as sleeping by the foot path.

→ 2001 to 2011 has seen an increase in urban areas because of rising rural to urban migration - when they come to already crowded cities like Delhi, where can they stay?

- the cost of housing is high
- they do not have proper jobs

→ Often, young children are found sleeping under bridges and

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the mother cooks roti by the road.

→ This division between slums and skyscrapers leads to crimes and social disharmony too.

→ During disasters like floods or during ~~sum~~ heatwaves, these families are first affected.

→ The PM Awas Yojana (Urban) seeks to rehabilitate and construct low-cost homes for the urban poor so that they can live better.

→ Disease, infection and crimes are often rampant in the jhuggis and basti of Delhi and Bombay.

→ The inclusion of affordable housing in Priority Sector lending (PSL) is welcome.

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→ The rise of finance companies, NBFCs focusing on affordable housing is a good step to ensure there is more money for better housing.

→ Our vision of smart city and smart villages is not possible unless we have affordable and safe housing for all by 2022.

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11. What is the criteria for a village being recognized as electrified? Examine the challenges present in rural electrification in India. Elaborate upon some of the recent initiatives of the government with a special emphasis on Deen Dayal Upadhayaya Gram Jyoti Yojana.

→ The criteria is:
(a) 10% of households be electrified
(b) Public offices, schools, government offices have electricity
(c) Dalit bastis etc. should be electrified.

→ Some of the challenges are:
(a) Cost of electricity is still high
(b) Rich households, with farmers benefit from free electricity while the poor homes do not even have electrical connections.
(c) India heavily relies on coal and thermal power. thus, there is an environment angle we need to keep in mind
(d) Per capital electricity use is still very low in India.

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(e) With primary reliance on monsoon, failure to rain means our agricultural sector is hurtled and there are insufficient non-farm activities where power is used.

Under the DDUGKY:

(a) 24x7 power for all
(b) feeder separation for agricultural and non-agricultural activities
(c) Compulsory metering
(d) accessible, affordable power

Other initiatives include
↳ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana - Giving LPG to homes so that Kerosene (Risky) is not used.
↳ PM Ujala Yojana — The

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Domestic Electrificating Lighting Programme (DELP) seeks to give LED bulbs to homes.

↳ the new GARV app tells us where and when electricity is available — so monitoring is easier and more reliable.

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12. While the Right to Education (RTE) Act was based on noble intentions, implementation of many of its provisions remain ridden with problems. Discuss.

- The RTE was welcomed as a game-changer for education.
- With the emphasis on 25% reservation, access to schools for 6-14 years was made a statutory right.
- However, there are some issues

(a) Donations are still asked from parents.

(b) Schools continue to reject RTE students on flimsy grounds

(c) Parents of non-RTE students have a problem with their children mingling with RTE children, so separate sections are created. The whole purpose of social inclusion is defeated

(d) Student : Teacher ratio continues to be skewed

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(e) The ban on private tuitions for teachers is impractical because many continue to take after school tuitions.

(f) Funding and reimbursing schools is still a challenge

(g) Quality is still a concern because there is no monitoring of learning outcomes.

(h) Rural schools lack basic infrastructure like tables, books so merely sending a child to school is meaningless

(i) Child labour is rampant still and children work after school because of economic needs. Can we punish the parents? That seems impossible.

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However, despite the challenges RTE is a good legislation and we must seek to improve it over time.

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13. Critically examining the key provisions of The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, discuss whether a complete ban on commercial surrogacy is justified.

The 2016 Bill brought many changes
(a) Complete ban on commercial surrogacy.
(b) A surrogate can only be a mother / close relative or someone doing it out of love and affection
(c) A woman should have already had her own biological child before she becomes a surrogate
(d) A couple should have been married for 5 years.
(e) Wife's age : 23 – 50 years
Men's age : 26 – 55 years
[age for commissioning couple]
(f) You can have a child through surrogacy only if you have a child with a serious health or mental condition.

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(g) A woman cannot be a surrogate more than two times
(h) Complete ban on NRI couples/ singles/ live-in couples/ homosexual couples from the Bill.

- The ban on commercial surrogacy has been controversial:

(a) Ethical / Moral Concerns:
that baby birth is a noble task and cannot be a monetary transaction — this will lead to "baby-farms"

(b) Practical Concerns:
Affects the health of the surrogate who is kept in hostels and paid a small sum of money, and it is a public health concern in allowing Indian women to be exploited.

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- Those against the ban argue that
(a) Right to choose (autonomy) of women to choose to be a surrogate or not
(b) Economic compulsions necessitate it, just like another profession
(c) If you ban it, it will become an underground business
(d) Regulate the money and the number of children per surrogate, rather than banning

- My understanding is that the ban was a bit too extreme because the social realities of India are grim. Thus, we must regulate the living conditions, financial aspects for the welfare of surrogate mothers and allow them to make an informed choice for themselves.

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14. It is often strongly suggested that scarce government resources should be redirected in favour of primary education rather than higher education. In this context, analyse whether curtailing public spending in higher education would help in achieving the principle of equity.

- The tussle between primary and higher education has always been controversial.
- Primary education in India forms the basis of our development, while higher education ensures that we have good research and development and secure jobs for our youth.
- To argue that we need to spend more on primary education at the cost of higher is ~~unreasonable~~ because:
  (a) Both are vital for our economic growth
  (b) Higher education enables a person to think freely, freely and demographic dividend becomes meaningful.

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(c) Good education at all levels makes us full-citizens with democratic participation

(d) If we donot spend adequately in our colleges, we will export our talent and incur brain drain where Indian students prefer to study and work abroad and never return to India (and loss for forex).

(e) Higher education should be linked to needs of the Indian Community, especially Rural India so that the benefits of investing in higher education spreads to the masses and weaker sections (Unnat Bharat Abhiyan)

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- The RTE ensures primary education, similarly our IITs and AIIMS ensure quality higher education for our youth.
- Both are important and equally essential.

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15. Accessibility is the key to inclusion and equal access for people with disabilities. Analyse. Also discuss the objectives and components of the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan with a special emphasis on inclusiveness and accessibility index.

- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan focuses on
  - Built infrastructure
  - transport
  - Information and Communication Technology

↳ These are three vital aspects of creating a disabled-friendly India.

↳ It seeks to make public places more accessible and more open for the disabled.

- The inclusion and access for the disabled is so vital for our development because they constitute nearly 2% our population (2011 Census).

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- Be it buses or schools or trains, India does not fully cater to the needs of the Persons with Disability (PWD)
- Their inclusion is important

for the sake for inclusion Itself - in that they have equal rights as citizens

Economic growth → empower themselves and contribute to our GDP

- As equal citizens of India, under Article 41 (DPSP) and Article 14 (equality), we need to give them equal access to study, to work.
- Thus, Divyanga Bharat seeks to change the perception of the PWD as merely "help-seekers"

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to independent individuals who can participate in the society.
- The increase in reservation from 2% to 4% in the PWD Bill, 2016 is also welcome.
- Under Sugamya Bharat, the new Accessibility index has been developed as a voluntary index for corporates to use — they can evaluate how PWD friendly they are and how they can improve and become more inclusive and sensitive to their needs.
- The index is a landmark step because it is not mandatory and thus, acts like a nudge effect to induce better access and public facilities for the PWD

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16. The Olympic Task Force constituted to prepare an action plan for the next three Olympic Games is a step in the right direction. Comment. Also highlight other initiatives required to augment India's performance in the sporting arena internationally.

- The OTF led by Abhinav Bindra and others was very critical about where we lack and what we should do.
- It set up short term, medium and long term targets and even includes the Commonwealth Games too.
- For 2020, 2024 and the following Olympic Games, models targets have been recommended.
- Further, they have mentioned how access to funds is still crucial for players — the private sector can be involved through PPP, CSR etc.
- The selection criteria and

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performance-based selection of players based on International standards is crucial.

Training and coaching facilities too should be upgraded to International standards.

Some of the challenges for India's performance are:

(a) Lack of adequate state support — Players need to run around pillar to post for the right to play, for funds and permissions etc.

the bureacracy doesn't fully cater to their needs.

(b) Young talent is often stymied because academic workload is deemed more important than sports in schools.

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(c) Grass roots level infrastructure is poor. Often, players don't have basic equipment.
Recently, there was news of girl footballers playing without shoes in the hot sand in Jharkhand

(d) Lack of support for girl players — they are treated as inferior by the state administration

(e) Rampant corruption and inefficiency in our sports bodies — instead, we should have retired, professional sportspersons run these bodies, rather than bureaucrats or politicians.

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17. Recent judgment of the Supreme Court, amending the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has invoked varied reponses. Highlighting the amendment, critically examine its likely impact on the application of the law.

→ In Hansora v. Hansora, the SC amended the DVA, 2005 to include even non-males; including minors against whom a woman can file a complaint. This means that she can file a DVA complaint not only against her husband, but also against mother-in-law and others, including minors in the family.

Some of the implications are
(a) the SC held that in India, section 498A, IPC (Domestic abuse and harassment) was not enough and thus, there had to be a legal provision against other family members too.
(b) The women is helpless and

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and all her wealth and jewellery is taken by the mother-in-law immediately after marriage and not given back to her

(c) Social structure in India is often patriarchical and the full family of the husband will support him

On the other hand, some argue that

(a) DVA was meant to be a gender specific law (against the male) and not gender-neutral

(b) We are diluting its effect by making it gender neutral

(c) If we want to include others, we need a new broader gender-neutral anti-harassment law

(d) Inclusion of minors is problematic

(e) a recent UN study said

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that the relevance and efficiency of gender - specific laws is higher in curbing crimes against women, rather than neutral ones.

In Conclusion, it may be said that while the SC decision is welcome such that it broaden the scope of domestic violence, the must make sure that its provisions balance the rights of the victims and the relatives so that they are not unfairly implicated, especially minors who may not be aware of what they are doing.

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18. Inspite of its usefulness as a tool of transparency and accountability, the RTI Act needs to be amended as it is being widely misused, especially to blackmail public functionaries. Critically examine.

- The RTI Act has completed nearly 10 years and has been hailed as ushering in transparency and accountability.
- However, cases of misuse have arisen:

(a) Recent instances of subjecting an officer who is honest to harassment over RTI disclosures is worrisome — an officer simply does her duty and cannot be unfairly penalized.

(b) The less RTI application fee (or free for BPL) means that anyone can seek information. This sometimes increases the burden on administrative departments.

(c) Many officers fear to take

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difficult decisions because they fear RTI scrutiny that may frame them. An officer (d) cannot be penalised for bad decisions — she can only be penalised for malafide actions and decisions.

- However, despite the challenges, the RTI has ushered in an era of openness and transparency. It has opened up the doors for the common public.

- Some of the amendments can be:
(a) Pecuniary liability for frivolous RTI applications
(b) Name and shame publicly the repeated - RTI filers who create trouble for honest officers.

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(C) Uphold good professional practices for honest discharge of public duty, so that honest officers do not get intimidated unnecessarily.

(d) Disclose all important decisions on websites so that one need not spend time replying to RTI queries on the same matter.

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19. The transgender community has been among one of the most marginalized communities in India. Discuss. How does the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016 seek to protect transgenders from discrimination and address the problems faced by them?

- The SC in NALSA case upheld the "Third Gender" and legalised the Conditions of transgenders.
- The Community has long been subjected to:
  - unequal access to education
  - poor health access
  - Police brutality
  - Economic backwardness
  - hatred and prejudice
- They have lived in the periphery of our society and have never been treated as equals.
- The SC said that reading Articles 14 (equality), 19 (expression) and 21 (right to life with dignity) together, the transgenders have faced discrimination and have not been given their due share as citizens.

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- Be it economic opportunities as the weaker sections or access to civil - political rights, they have been living as secondary citizens.
- Thus, the Bill seeks to alleviate their conditions
  - ↳ reservation in jobs and access to education
  - ↳ Discrimination in public and private institutions is not allowed.
  - ↳ They cannot be denied a house, a job or a seat in an educational institution on the grounds of their gender
- The SC in NALSA had said that all government forms should include the third gender.

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- Recently, Kochi Metro had hired transgender drivers, but now they have been denied housing.
- Most of them live in shady, unsafe communities where they are subjected to physical and sexual exploitation and often, even the authorities like the police do not listen to their struggles.
- Thus, the SC decision backed by a legislation is a welcome step.

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20. Though the Forest Rights Act 2006 tries to undo the historic injustice done to the forest dweller and tribals, it has been argued that it is being misused. Critically analyse.

- The ~~Foreign~~ Forest Rights Act seeks to undo the historic injustice to the tribals and gives them access to small, minor — forest produce and consider them as equal partners to the protection of forests.
- ~~Ho~~ One of the safeguards in the law is that the Gram Sabha has to be consulted before any major decision is taken, including on rehabilitation.
- However, of late, cases of misuse have arisen:

(A) The senior-most members of tribal clan or forest-dwellers, ~~to~~ part of Gram Sabha have sided with the vested interests and business lobbies

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and thus, they do not protect the interests of tribals.

(b) Denotification of certain resource-rich forests so that the Act is inapplicable

(c) the Act is not included under the purview of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), so no quick and efficient remedy for violation other than going to the Courts.

(d) Public Consultation is a sham and often, tribals and forest dwellers' voices are not heard.

It is unfortunate that a law meant to protect the tribals and dwellers has been turned on its head for the benefit of the business groups and vested interests.

(P.T.O)

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- The SC in many cases, including the Niyamgiri case has held that tribal rights over natural resources has to be protected.
- Historically, they have been the guardians of our forests and we must not alienate them from the development process.